

***Providing Leadership in Environmental Entomology***

Department of Entomology, Soils, and Plant Sciences • 114 Long Hall • Clemson, SC 29634-0315 • Phone: 864-656-3111  
email:dpento@clemson.edu

## **GRASSHOPPER DAMAGE ON WHEAT**

**Description:** Grasshopper damage on wheat is often first noticed when a few heads in the field turn white. Several other pests, as well as cold injury can cause this symptom. To verify grasshopper damage, look for ragged feeding damage on the stem. The stem may have a shredded appearance at the feeding site. Grasshoppers also feed on wheat leaves and the ripening kernels, in which case the cause of damage is obvious.



**Grasshopper feeding on wheat head**  
(J. Chapin)



**Wheat stem shredded by grasshopper feeding**  
(J. Chapin)

**Management:** Wheat stem feeding by grasshoppers has not been an economic problem in South Carolina. It gets noticed because the relatively few stems which are damaged have white heads that stand out in an otherwise healthy green field. Defoliation and head feeding injury is so sporadic that we don't have any well-defined economic thresholds for treatment. See the most recent issue of the Ag. Chemical Handbook for grasshopper control recommendations.

*For other publications in our Entomology Insect Information Series visit our web site at*  
<http://www.clemson.edu/esps>.

---

Prepared by Jay W. Chapin, Extension Entomologist/Professor, Department of Entomology, Soils, and Plant Sciences, Clemson University, Edisto Research & Education Center, Box 247, Blackville, SC 29817.  
Phone: 803-284-3343 E-mail:jchapin@clemson.edu

---

This information is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is implied. Brand names of pesticides are given as a convenience and are neither an endorsement nor guarantee of the product nor a suggestion that similar products are not effective. Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Follow all directions, precautions and restrictions that are listed.  
EIS/AG-31 (New 07/2000).